

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2002

Contact: Kevin O'Connell
202-225-6335

HINCHEY COMMENDS SIGNING OF HUDSON RIVER RECORD OF DECISION

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today applauded the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD) to remove PCBs from the Hudson River. Hinchey made the following remarks following U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman's announcement of the finalized version of the plan for a comprehensive cleanup of the river:

"After many arduous years of fighting for the cleanup of the Hudson River, I am thrilled that this day has finally come. The Record of Decision signed today will allow us to begin relieving the Hudson River of the toxic burden it's been suffering under for decades.

"I sincerely hope that this will bring to end the strenuous efforts of General Electric to prevent the cleanup from going forward. It's long past time for GE to cooperate with this effort in a constructive way.

"I commend the EPA for committing to ample opportunities for public comment as the process moves forward. I look forward to working with the agency toward a cleanup plan that implements the remediation in a timely and effective way."

Over a period of thirty years, General Electric dumped over one million pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) directly into the Hudson River from its facilities in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, NY. A decade of independently examined scientific studies determined that the PCBs will continue to pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment unless they are removed. Hinchey has led the effort to rid the river of these toxins.